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SECRETARY BOWLES SIGNS MEPA CERTIFICATE FINDING CAPE WIND ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW "ADEQUATE"

Wind farm project now proceeds to permitting at state agencies

BOSTON – Environmental Affairs Secretary Ian Bowles has determined that the Final Environmental Impact Report submitted by the Cape Wind wind farm project "adequately and properly complies" with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act. The project can now advance to the state permitting process.

Cape Wind involves the development of 130 Wind Turbine Generators on a grid over 25 square miles in Nantucket Sound known as Horseshoe Shoals, located in federal waters. The project also includes cables that transmit the electric power to the mainland, making landfall in the Town of Yarmouth and passing through Massachusetts's territorial waters, generally three nautical miles from shore. The portion of Cape Wind located in federal waters is currently under federal environmental review led by the US Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service.

"My obligation under MEPA is to ensure that the impacts of construction and operation of the portions of the project within Massachusetts's jurisdiction have been adequately avoided, minimized, and mitigated. I find that they have," said Secretary Bowles. "Based on the air quality benefits, as well as the compensatory mitigation measures detailed in this Certificate, I find that the environmental benefits and compensatory mitigation provided by the project are adequate to mitigate the impacts of the project occurring in Massachusetts."

The \$10 million Cape Wind mitigation package consists of:

- \$780,000 towards the restoration of Bird Island, off the town of Marion in Buzzards Bay. At 1.5 acres in size, Bird Island provides prime nesting habitat for Roseate and Common Terns, but the island is subject to significant and accelerating erosion. The enhancement of nesting habitat on Bird Island will benefit the same tern population that is subject to potential impacts from the wind turbine array.

- \$4.22 million towards natural resource preservation, marine habitat restoration, and coastal recreation enhancement projects in the area of Cape Cod, Nantucket, and Martha's Vineyard.
- An estimated \$5.6 million in Federal Lease Payments over 20 years, representing 27 percent of the revenues received by the federal government.

Secretary Bowles also declared that the Cape Wind Project "is expressly consistent with and will significantly advance" the Commonwealth's energy policy goals.

"Overall, the Cape Wind Project will contribute to the long-term preservation and enhancement of our environment," said Secretary Bowles.

With Secretary Bowles's finding that the project's Final EIR is adequate, Cape Wind is free to file for permits from the various state agencies needed to proceed with construction.

Supporting Documents

[The MEPA Certificate on Cape Wind](#)

[The full statement read by Secretary Bowles at a 3/30/07 news conference on the public release of the Cape Wind MEPA Certificate.](#)

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